

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 AF-06 EB-07 AID-05 ACDA-05 /092 W

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R 141300Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6281

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0794

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MT, SW, CSCE

SUBJ: REPORTED VIEWS OF SWEDISH AMBASSADOR ON CSCE

1. THE NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR OF SWEDEN TO MALTA, RICHARD H. BERGSTROEM, MADE A PERIODIC VISIT HERE THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY, DURING WHICH HE MADE A NUMBER OF COURTESY CALLS ON GOM OFFICIALS. AMBASSADOR BERGSTROEM IS RESIDENT IN ROME.

2. WHILE IN MALTA, AMBASSADOR BERGSTROEM WAS "QUOTED" IN THE MALTA NEWS (ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY PUBLISHED BY GENERAL WORKERS UNION AND A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF) AS HAVING STATED THAT "MALTA AND SWEDEN SHARE IDENTICAL VIEWS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN." THE AMBASSADOR WAS ALSO "QUOTED" AS SAYING THAT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT "AGREED WITH MALTA'S PROPOSAL TO THE CSCE THAT THE MEDITERRANEAN SHOULD BE FREE OF ROAMING SOVIET AND AMERICAN FLEETS".

3. THIS "REPORT" IN THE MALTA NEWS (WHICH WAS NOT, SIGNIFICANTLY, CARRIED IN THE OTHER ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY, THE ANTI-MINTOFFIAN TIMES OF MALTA), WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PICKED UP IN A MALTA NEWS EDITORIAL

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LAUDING MALTA'S PERFORMANCE AT THE CSCE AND PRAISING

SWEDENT FOR SUPPORTING MALTESE POLICY.

4. AMBASSADOR BERGSTROEM LEFT MALTA ON JULY 4, THE DAY THE NEWS REPORT APPEARED. ON MONDAY, JULY 7, DCM RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM HONORARY SWEDISH CONSUL GENERAL IN MALTA. CONSUL GENERAL STATED THAT AMBASSADOR BERGSTROEM HAD, UNSUCCESSFULLY, TRIED TO REACH EMBASSY PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE TO ASSURE AMBASSADOR SMITH THAT THE MALTA NEWS REPORT DID NOT, REPEAT NOT, REFLECT HIS VIEWS AND HAD BEEN PRINTED WITHOUT HIS AUTHORIZATION. IN HIS ABSENCE, HE HAD ASKED HIS CONSUL GENERAL TO CONVEY THE SAME MESSAGE TO THE EMBASSY.

5. COMMENT: WE DO NOT DOUBT IN THE LEAST THAT MINTOFF'S SUPPORTERS ON THE MALTA NEWS MAY HAVE EMBROIDERED ANY COMMENTS AMBASSADOR BERGSTROEM MIGHT HAVE MADE ON CSCE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE MALTESE PUBLIC HAS BEEN LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE MALTA NEWS ACCOUNTS ARE ACCURATE, IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY OFFICIAL SWEDISH STATEMENT TO THE CONTRARY. SMITH

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## Message Attributes

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